GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – All India Services – **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam and presently working as State Silviculturist, Tirupati – Disciplinary Proceedings under Rule 8 of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969 - Articles of Charge – Issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SC-D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 1893 Dated: 03-12-2020

ORDER:

Government have decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam and presently working as State Silviculturist, Tirupati in accordance with the procedure laid down under Rule 8 of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. The substance of misconduct or misbehavior, in respect of which the disciplinary action is proposed to be initiated is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I).

2. A statement of imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in support of the Articles of Charges, together with the list of documents by which and list of witnesses by whom, the Articles of Charge are proposed to be sustained, are also enclosed as Annexure-II, III & IV respectively.

3. **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam is directed to submit a written statement of his defence also state whether he desires to be heard in person, within 15 days of the receipt of this order.

4. **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srikakulam is informed that an inquiry will be held, only in respect of those Articles of Charge are not admitted and in case if it is considered necessary. He should therefore specifically admit or deny each Articles of Charge.

5. **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam is further informed that if no written statement of defence is filed within the specified time at para 3 above or if he does not appear in person before the Inquiring Authority or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 8 of All India Service Rules (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969 or the orders or directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, action will be taken against him on the basis of material available on the record and on the ground that he has no explanation to offer.

6. Attention of **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam is invited to Rule 18 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, according to which no Member of Service shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be presumed that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 18 of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

(PTO)

7. This order is sent to **Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,** in duplicate. He is directed to acknowledge the receipt with date on duplicate copy and return the same to the Government immediately.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri Shaik Salam, IFS.,
Formerly Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam of Visakhapatnam Circle and
presently working as State Sivliculturist, Tirupati of Tirupati Circle.
(Through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P, Guntur)

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur. (He is requested to serve the Government Order on the Member of Service, obtain his acknowledgement on the duplicate copy, and furnish the same to the Government immediately).

Copy to:
The Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 001
The Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
The General Administration Department (SC-C) Department
The General Administration Department (SC-E) Department
SC/SF.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)

ANNEXURE – I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SHAIK SALAM, I.F.S, FORMERLY DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, SRIKAKULAM OF VISAKHAPATNAM CIRCLE AND PRESENTLY WORKING AS STATE SILVICULTURIST, TIRUPATI OF WLM CIRCLE, TIRUPATI

Sri Shaik Salam IFS., formerly worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam for the period from 02.06.2014 to 23.02.2016. During his tenure he had exhibited gross neglect of his duties, lack of supervision and non followed the provisions under various Financial / Forests codes, Forest Schedule of Rates (FSR), Standard Schedule of Rates (SSR) and administrative instructions in the sanction of estimates and committed irregularities in execution works viz., raising of nurseries, raising of avenue plantations and maintenance of avenue plantations, and committed grave misconduct as mentioned in the following Articles of Charges.

Article 1:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srikakulam, during his tenure he had exhibited lack of supervision over the Subordinate Officers, resulting in irregularities in raising of 50000 (5”x9”) bag nursery in Vavam village and 15990 (8”x12”) bag nursery in Cheedivalasa village under MGNREGS during 2014-15 and the saplings neither utilized nor distributed, which results in wasteful expenditure and causing severe loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.3,98,845/-.

Article 2:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS, neglected his duties and committed irregularities in execution of works of raising of avenue plantations and nurseries under MGNREG Scheme during 2014-15 and 2015-16 (up to 15-02-2016) and the FTOs (Fund Transfer Orders) were generated and uploaded from DCC of Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam. As per the FTOs uploaded, an amount of Rs.22,52,033/- (Rs.9,24,732/- during 2014-15 + Rs.13,27,301/- during 2015-16) has been drawn in the name of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor. The amounts for different works like material payment, Ground rent, Vanasevak salary, contingencies etc, were drawn in the name of Sri I.Sanyasi Rao, even though he is not a registered contractor which is highly irregular. This amounts to breach of trust and misappropriation of government money.

Article 3:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., neglected his duties and committed irregularities in execution of works under 13th Finance Commission (Social Forestry) and 09-Mixed Plantations Scheme. On verification of the bills along with cash accounts during 2014-15, an amount of Rs.22,87,666/- and during 2015-16 (up to December, 2015) an amount of Rs.3,17,960/- was credited into the account of Sri I.Sanyasi Rao, Contractor which is highly irregular. This amounts to breach of trust and misappropriation of government money.

Article 4:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., had spent an amount of Rs.16,99,958/- from the sale of seedlings amount i.e (revolving fund) without prior approval from the District Collector and Chairman, District Forestry Committee, Srikakulam. Out of which, an amount of Rs.5,17,880/- was reimbursed from the funds available under 09-Mixed Plantation Scheme. But, the remaining amount of Rs.11,82,078/- was not reimbursed.

Article 5:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., did not follow the general rules and provisions of SSR and FSR, while sanctioning the estimates in DSO.No.4/2015-16 and 14/2015-16 and thereby an amount of Rs.1,00,323/- towards loss sustained to the Government”.

Article 6:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., had booked Non-VSS expenditure to a tune of Rs.4,91,058/- through VSS, which is against the guidelines communicated by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Hyderabad in Rc. No. 525276/2008/PMU-III/2, dated 14-11-2008 and the same was communicated in CCF, Visakhapatnam, Rc.no.4271/2004-TO, dated 25.11.2008.

(PTO)

Further, the said Divisional Forest Officer has issued cheques directly to the Forest Section Officers instead of Forest Range Officer by violating provisions laid down under Section 84 (1) of AP Forest Department Code Volume-I.

Article 7:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., had harassed and ill-treated the woman Forest Range Officer and refused to take medical leave application from the Range Officer even though she is having reasonable cause.

Thus, Sri Shaik Salam IFS., by his above mentioned acts failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct un-becoming of a Member of Service thereby violating Rule 3(1) and 3(2) of the All India Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)

Annexure –II

STATEMENTS OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SHAIK SALAM, I.F.S., FORMERLY DIVISONAL FOREST OFFICER, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, SRIKAKULAM

* * *

Article 1:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srikakulam, during his tenure he had exhibited lack of supervision over the Subordinate Officers, resulting in irregularities in raising of 50000 (5”x9”) bag nursery in Vavam village and 15990 (8”x12”) bag nursery in Cheedivalasa village under MGNREGS during 2014-15 and the saplings neither utilized nor distributed, which results in wasteful expenditure and causing severe loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.3,98,845/-.

Basis of charge:

As a part of general inspection, Flying Squad Party, Visakhapatnam had inspected the Vavam and Cheedivalasa nurseries in Palakonda Range on 11.01.2016 along with Sri K.N.Ramalingeswara Rao, Forest Section Officer, Sarubujjili Section and Sri U.Bhaskara Rao, Forest Beat Officer, Kadagandi West Beat of Palakonda Range, Srikakulam Territorial Division. During the course of inspection, following irregularities were noticed by the Flying Squad Party:

- In Vavam Village, 50000 no. (5”x9”) bag nursery raised during 2014-15 under MGNREG Scheme to be utilized for 2015 rainy season, was not utilized or distributed and the seedlings dried and damaged. Teak beds nursery was found not established. This has resulted in wasteful expenditure to a tune of Rs.**2,41,309**/- for Vavam nursery.
- In Cheedivalasa 8”x12” bag nursery, wasteful expenditure was observed to a tune of Rs.**1,57,536/**- in raising 15990 no. bag nursery out of 20,000 no. bag nursery. Only 1232 plants survived. The bags were in bad shape and beds were looking in heaps and the seedlings died due to lack of watering.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has failed to discharge his legitimate duties and failed in supervising the works of Range Officer, as mentioned above, resulting in wasteful expenditure and causing loss to the State’s exchequer to a tune of Rs.**3,98,845/- (**Rs. 2,41,309/- + Rs.1,57,536/-).

As per A.P. Forest Department Code-Vol-I, Section 151, following are the duties and responsibilities of the Divisional Forest Officer:

- The Divisional Forest Officer is responsible for the general management and protection of the forests situated in his division, the administration of the division under his charge the execution of all forest works in the division and exercise direct control over the forest establishment employed therein.
- He exercises a direct control over the Forest establishment in the Division and it is his duty to see that the Executive, protective, Ministerial and other forest staff in the Division maintain discipline and attend to their duties properly.
- He is immediately subordinate to the Conservator of Forests of the circle in all matters and will receive orders and instructions from him, besides complying with the instruction from him, besides complying with one instruction of the Head Office under exigencies of service.
- He will conduct inspection of all forest works in the division and check-measure the works as prescribed in this code.
- He will see that nursery and plantation journals, Control books, Control Journals are posted up to date.

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- He should make surprise inspection of Range Officers and verify the maintenance or office records, stores and cash book.
- He should perform any special work or duty which may be entrusted to him by his superiors.

Article 2:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srikakulam neglected his duties and committed irregularities in execution of works of raising of avenue plantations and nurseries under MGNREG Scheme during 2014-15 and 2015-16 (up to 15-02-2016) and the FTOs (Fund Transfer Orders) were generated and uploaded from DCC of Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam. As per the FTOs uploaded, an amount of Rs.22,52,033/- (Rs.9,24,732/- during 2014-15 + Rs.13,27,301/- during 2015-16) has been drawn in the name of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor. The amounts for different works like material payment, Ground rent, Vanasevak salary, contingencies etc, were drawn in the name of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, even though he is not a registered contractor, which is highly irregular. This amounts to breach of trust and misappropriation of government money.

Basis of the Charge: On receipt of compliant made against Forest officials of S.F. Division, Srikakulam, the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator Forest (Vig), O/o the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Hyderabad conducted preliminary enquiry on the alleged financial irregularities committed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry, Srikakulam on 24.01.2016 and 25.01.2016 at Visakhapatnam and submitted a report to the Prl. Chief Conservator Forests in letter dt.30.01.2016 with certain recommendations. As per the instructions of the Prl. Chief Conservator Forests & Head of Forest Force, the Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator Forests, SF&WP Circle, Visakhapatnam has issued instructions to the Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad Party, Visakhapatnam and Accounts Officer, IAP, Visakhapatnam in Rc. No. 547/2015/E(a), dt.10.02.2016 to conduct a special audit and a detailed enquiry jointly on all financial transactions, especially on the payments made under MGNREGS and with special reference to the payments made to Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor. As per instructions of the Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator Forests, SF&WP Circle, the Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad Party, Visakhapatnam and Accounts Officer, IAP, Visakhapatnam have jointly conducted a special audit and enquiry from 15.02.2016 to 17.02.2016 on the alleged financial irregularities took place during the period of Sri Shaik Salam, IFS., earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam and submitted a special audit report in Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad Party, Visakhapatnam vide Rc. No. 731/ 2015(V), dt. 20.02.2016.

As per report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad Party, Visakhapatnam in Rc.No.731/2015/V, dt.20.02.2016, the total list of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) generated in Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam during 2014-15 and 2015-16 (up to 15th Feb' 2016) in MGNREGS Scheme was accessed from the DCC system of Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam through online. Out of FTOs generated, an amount of Rs.9,24,732/- during 2014-15 and an amount of Rs.13,27,301/- during 2015-16 have been drawn in the name of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, who is a contractor in Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam. Thus, an amount of Rs.22,52,033/- was drawn in the name of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao for different works like material component payment, Ground rent, Vanasevak salary and contingencies etc., though he was not a registered contractor.

Thus, it is obviously evident that, instead of making payments directly into the beneficiary (Ground rent, Vanasevak Salary) and certified firms accounts "a mediator" was engaged by the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam to divert the material component amounts under MGNREGS, which is illegal and against to the MGNREGS norms. Thus, the Divisional Forest Officer has established an unethical and illegal system with unauthorized person in the Department by violating the existing guidelines and procedure, which is highly objectionable and derogatory to the institution.

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Article 3:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., neglected his duties and committed irregularities in execution of works under 13th Finance Commission (Social Forestry) and 09-Mixed Plantations Scheme. On verification of bills along with cash accounts during 2014-15, an amount of Rs.22,87,666/- and during 2015-16 (up to December, 2015) an amount of Rs.3,17,960/- was credited into the account of Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor, which is highly irregular. This amounts to breach of trust and misappropriation of government money.

Basis of the Charge: On verification of the bills along with cash accounts an amount of Rs.1,22,32,808/- was sanctioned for (285) works during the year 2014-15 under 13th Finance Commission (Social Forestry) and 09-Mixed Plantations plan Schemes. The following are the details of payment to the different works and contractor Sri. I. Sanyasi Rao:

Year	Amount Sanctioned for works under 13th Finance Commission (Social Forestry) and 09-Mixed plantation	Amount spent for different works, following due procedure	Amount spent through Sri. I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor
2014-15	Rs.1,22,32, 808/-	Rs.95,45,963/-	Rs.22,87,666/-
2015-16 (upto Dec, 2015)	Rs.25,45,505/-	Rs.10,99,880/-	Rs.3,17,960/-
Total:			**Rs.26,05,626**

The Divisional Forest Officer has colluded with Sri I. Sanyasi Rao, Contractor, who is not a registered contractor, for his personal gain, with vested interest and the Divisional Forest Officer has used the said contractor as mediator and drawn funds from the Government Accounts for his personal gain. Hence the charge.

Article 4:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., had spent an amount of Rs.16,99,958/- from the sale of seedlings amount i.e. (revolving fund) without prior approval from the District Collector and Chairman, District Forestry Committee, Srikakulam. Out of which, an amount of Rs.5,17,880/- was reimbursed from the funds available under 09-Mixed Plantation Scheme. But, the remaining amount of Rs.11,82,078/- was not reimbursed.

Basis of the Charge: On verification of the cash book of sale of seedlings (Revolving Fund) by the Divisional Forest Officers, Flying Squad Division, Visakhapatnam, it is found that an amount of Rs.16,99,958/- was incurred without the prior approval from the District Collector and Chairman, District Social Forestry Committee, Srikakulam. Out of this, an amount of Rs.5,17,880/- was reimbursed from the funds available from 09-Mixed Plantation Scheme and the remaining amount Rs.11,82,078/- has not been reimbursed even though adequate budget was available under 09-mixed plantation scheme during 2015-16.

Article 5:- *That the said* Sri Shaik Salam IFS., did not follow the general rules and provisions of SSR and FSR, while sanctioning the estimates in DSO.No.4/2015-16 and 14/2015-16, thereby an amount of Rs.1,00,323/- loss sustained to the Government".

Basis of the Charge:-

As could be observed from the sanctioned estimates for the year 2015-16, following irregularities took place, for which the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam is held responsible for loss sustained to the Government:

(i) As regard in DSO.no.4/2015-16, (3) items were sanctioned irregularly and in-excess viz.,

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(a) The DFO has accorded sanction for labour charges for plumbing works under infrastructure facilities at Central nursery, Collectorate, Srikakulam basing on the actuals for Rs.24,075/- though there was a specific provision made in the SSR of 2015-16 under (5)(e) of Labour rates for Plumber for Rs.480/- per day (skilled). Thus, basing on these provisions, the estimate would have been sanctioned basing on man days only. Thus, it is evident that he has not followed the provisions and irregular sanction was accorded in DSO No.4/2015-16.

(b) For clearing of jungle growth at Central Nursery, sanction was accorded for approximate quantity i.e., 100 man days without any basis and the rate was arrived @ Rs.180/- per day, even though there is specific rate and provision made in FSR of 2015-16 of Visakhapatnam Circle under item code No.03-02-00 & 03-02-01. Thus, it is evident that he has not followed the provisions and irregular sanction was given for Rs.18,000/- which is not tenable.

(c) Regarding Contingencies, the DFO has accorded sanction for Rs.9,958/- which is against the provisions of Special condition No.31 of FSR of 2015-16 of Visakhapatnam Circle. However, if necessary as per the prevailing site conditions, he should have sanctioned an amount, not exceeded 5% on the total estimated cost Rs.1,18,000/- which comes to Rs.5,900/-. Thus, he had sanctioned excess amount of Rs.4,058/-, which is irregular.

(ii) As regards estimate in DSO.No.14/2015-16, four (4) items were found sanctioned irregularly viz.,

(a) The shade net (75%) was replaced in place of old net, which was damaged. There are no details of old net (75%), either in the estimate (or) in the foot note of the estimate (or) anywhere in the record. Thus, the expenditure incurred for this item is infructuous.

(b) Regarding cost of enamel paint, Rs.295/- per letter, was sanctioned for 50 letter, which comes to Rs.14,750/- basing on the lowest quotation. Whereas, there was a specific rate of Rs.260/- per letter, for 1st Quality enamel paint and provision was made under Sl.No.71 of Part-I basic input data for Irrigation items, Page no.14 of SSR of 2015-16. Thus, there is loss of Rs.1750/- (Rs.14,750/- - Rs.13,000/- = Rs.1750/-) sustained to the Government.

When there was a specific provision and rate made under item code 04-04-04 in FSR of 2015-16 of Visakhapatnam Circle for transport of bag plants (8”X12”) from nursery site to the Plantation site including loading and unloading beyond 5 km - extra rate for every one km, the Forest Range Officers have not followed the rates provided in the FSR and the Divisional Forest Officer did not point out the above lapses while releasing the funds to the Forest Range Officers:-

(c) As regards, Labour charges of fixing of shade net, the Divisional Forest Officer has sanctioned Rs.17,920/- for (7) no. / (8) days @ Rs. 320/- per man day towards labour charges for fixing of shade net by adopting the Collector wage rate. Whereas, there was a specific rate @ Rs.180/- per man day fixed and communicated for unskilled labour as per G.O.Ms.No.48 PR & RD (RD.II) Department dated 28-04-2015, which was also appended in the FSR of 2015-16 of Visakhapatnam Circle. Thus, an excess amount of Rs.7,840/- (Rs.17,920/- - Rs,10,080/- = Rs.7840/-) was sanctioned, causing loss to the Government.

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(d) Regarding Labour charges for painting to Iron angular, the Divisional Forest Officer has sanctioned for Rs.9,600/- towards labour charges for painting to Iron angular by adopting the collector wage rate Rs.320/- per day. But, as per the existing practice in vogue, the rate for painting to iron angular should be calculated / adopted as per the standard data. But, in this case, the Divisional Forest Officer did not follow the guidelines and completely ignored the standard data and spent Rs.9,600/- which is irregular.

(iii) As per the amended codal provisions communicated through G.O. Ms.No.2, EFS&T Department, dated 07.01.2004 and Circular No 4/2014 of Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Hyderabad, the Forest Range Officer is having powers to accord sanction of estimates upto Rs.50,000/-. When he sought for release of funds, the Divisional Forest Officer has to invariably verify the estimates sanctioned by the respective Forest Range Officer and after getting satisfied with the sanctioned estimate, he should have released the funds. But, the Divisional Forest Officer did not follow the statutory procedure and issued funds without verification of the items mentioned in the sanctioned estimates for the following:-

(a) Without certification of lead for transportation of seedlings either by the Range Officer or by the Divisional Forest Officer in respect of transport of 2000 no. (8" X12") tall seedlings from Vallabaraopeta to Amaravathi in SF Section, Etcherla of SF Range, Srikaularm-I during 2015-16 (RSO No.3/2015-16 of SF Range, Srikakulam-I for Rs.24,160/-), release of the amount of Rs.17,500/- based on the quotation, is not acceptable.

(b) Similar observation was also made in DSO.no.16/2015-16 of SF Range, Srikakulam-IV and the release of Rs.17,500/- towards transportation of 4000 no. bag plants from Kajipeta nursery site to Amaravathi site (8"X12") based on the lowest quotation, is not acceptable.

Article 6:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., had booked Non-VSS expenditure to a tune of Rs.4,91,058/- through VSS, which is against the guidelines communicated by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Hyderabad in Rc. No.525276/2008/PMU-III/2, dated 14-11-2008 and the same was communicated in CCF, Visakhapatnam, Rc.no.4271/2004-TO, dated 25.11.2008. Further, the said Divisional Forest Officer has issued cheques directly to the Forest Section Officers instead of Forest Range Officer by violating provisions laid down under Section 84(1) of AP Forest Department Code Volume-I.

Basis of the Charge: As verified from the revolving fund cash book, the following omissions are noticed in contravention to the guidelines communicated by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Hyderabad in Ref. No.52276/2008/PMU-III/2, dated 14-11-2008 and the same was communicated in CCF, Visakhapatnam, Rc.No.4271/2004-TO, dated 25-11-2008:

a) The following cheques were issued relating to Diesel, Vehicle repairs and Driver salary and the expenditure was incurred through VSS, though these items are Non-VSS items:

Cheque No	Date	Amount in Rs.
104251	06.06.2015	24,000
104252	07.06.2015	45,085
104253	08.06.2015	41,840
104254	09.07.2015	42,448
104260	11.08.2015	24,780
104825	26.09.2015	32,967
104826	27.10.2015	37,815
104827	27.10.2015	36,311

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104828	28.10.2015	30,137
104829	28.10.2015	30,137
104830	16.11.2015	49,900
104961	04.12.2015	46,819
104962	05.12.2015	46,356
104963	06.12.2015	18,040
	Total:	**4,91,058**

b) The following ARs i.e., Forest Advances by way of cheques were issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, directly to the Forest Section Officers instead of Forest Range Officer by violating provisions laid down under Section 84 (1) of AP Forest Department Code Volume-I, as per the extract of cash book under Revolving fund for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 (Up to December, 2015):

Cheque No.	Date	Amount in Rs.	To whom issued
104256	11.07.2015	1,00,000	Sri Y.Rajendra, FSO, SF Division, Srikakulam
104257	11.07.2015	1,00,000	Smt. B.Aruna Kumari, FSO, SF Division, Srikakulam
104258	11.07.2015	1,00,000	Smt. B.Aruna Kumari, FSO, SF Division, Srikakulam

c) The Divisional Forest Officer has issued ARs through following cheques for an amount of Rs.4.99 lakh to the Forest Range Officers, SF, Srikakulam – I, which include the works relating to other Ranges, instead of issuing separate cheques to the respective Range Officers, which is suspectable and also against the rules in vogue. The Divisional Forest Officer should have obtained cash accounts for the 1st cheque and satisfy himself and then only, he may issue 2nd cheque. In this case, the Divisional Forest Officer has issued series of cheques without obtaining cash accounts for previous cheques, which is against to the accounting procedure and rules in vogue:

Cheque No.	Date	Amount in Rs.	To whom issued
104830	16.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104831	17.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104832	18.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104833	19.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104834	20.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104835	21.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104837	22.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104838	23.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104839	24.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
104840	25.11.2015	49,000	FRO, SF, Srikakulam-I
	Total:	**4,99,000**	

Article 7:- That the said Sri Shaik Salam IFS., earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srikakulam had harassed and ill-treated the Woman Forest Range Officer and refused to take medical leave application from the Range Officer, even though she is having reasonable cause.

Basis of the Charge: As per the report of the Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam in Rc.No.547/2015/E, dt.23.11.2015, the Secretary, APFROs, Association, Visakhapatnam has submitted a representation stating that, Sri Shaik Salam, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry, Srikakulam has harassed and ill treated the Forest Range Officer Smt. J. Sindhu and refused to receive the medical leave application from her and instructed the office staff,

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not to take any leave letter from her. In view of the facts explained by Smt. J. Sindhu, FRO, and the Secretary, APFROs Association, Visakhapatnam and basing on the Doctor reports, being the competent authority, the APCCF/CF(FAC) SF&WP Circle, Visakhapatnam has sanctioned leave to her in his Rc.No.547/2015-E(S.O.No.13/ 2015/E) dt.17.11.2015 and made necessary alternative arrangements to avoid dislocation of works in the field. Further, the APCCF (Vig), O/o the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Hyderabad has conducted preliminary enquiry and stated that, the personal behavior of the Divisional Forest Officer, Sri Shaik Salam, especially towards lady sub-ordinates is not proper and high handed. Sri Shaik Salam, IFS, earlier Divisional Forest Officer should have been more responsible, while handling the Forest Range Officers like Smt. J. Sindhu and Smt. G. Pratima, who have just joined in their first posting after completion of training. The general behavior appears to be not proper towards the sub-ordinates thus, spoiling the work environment.

As per the Section 151 of A.P. Forest Department Code (Volume-I), it is the duty and responsibility of the Divisional Forest Officer, to verify whether the funds released by him are properly utilized by the Forest Range Officers or not, by taking up field inspections in the division's jurisdiction from time to time. Thus he violated the rules and regulations resulting in unfruitful and infructuous expenditure of funds released by him as a Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam to the Forest Range Officers as mentioned in detail in the above article of charges.

Thus, the Member of Service failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of Member of Service in violation of Rule 3(1) and 3(2) of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and under Section 151 of A.P. Forest Department Code Volume-1. Hence the Articles of charge.

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SHAIK SALAM, I.F.S., FORMERLY DIVISONAL FOREST OFFICER, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, SRIKAKULAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED

1. Divisional Forest Officer (FAC), Flying Squad Division, Visakhapatnam, Rc.No.36/2015(V) dated.28.01.2016.
2. Divisional Forest Officer FAC, Flying Squad Division, Visakhapatnam. Rc.No.731/2015(V) dated.20.02.2016.
3. Director, Panchaythiraj and Rural Development, Vijayawada D.O letter Rc.No.1740/Horti2016, dated.05.07.2018.
4. Addl. PCCF, Visakhapatnam Rc.No.547/2015/E, dated 23.11.2015.

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SHAIK SALAM, I.F.S., FORMERLY DIVISONAL FOREST OFFICER, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, SRIKAKULAM PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED

1. Sri K.Mahaboob Basha. Divisional Forest Officer (FAC), Flying Squad Division, Visakhapatnam.
2. Sri K.Chalapathi Rao, Accounts Officer, IAP, Visakhapatnam.
3. Sri V. Nagendra Prasad, Forest Range Officer, Social Forestry Range, Palakonda Rtd on 28.02.2017.
4. Smt. G Prathima, Forest Range Officer, Social Forestry Range, Srikakulam-I.
5. Smt. J Sindhu, Forest Range Officer, Social Forestry Range, Srikakulam-IV.
6. Sri Y Rajendra, Forest Section Officer, Social Forestry Range, O/o Social Forestry Division, Srikakulam.
7. Smt B Aruna Kumari, Forest Section Officer, Social Forestry Range, Srikakulam-IV.

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)